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NEWSLETTER VOL. 1



CITIZEN BAND POTAWATOMI INDIANS

ROUTE 5 BOX 180-D - SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA 74801

The Citizen Band of Potawatomi Tribe has recently been funded by the government for a Tribal Management Program and Community Development Program. A part of this program is to mail a newsletter to the heads of households describing briefly some of the benefits available to the Tribal members and the requirements for these programs. This will be your first newsletter trying to give you some information on the benefits available, later we will publish a booklet giving more detailed information on benefits available for those who possess 1/4 degree or more Indian blood and benefits available for those who possess less than 1/4 degree of Citizen Band Potawatomi blood in which we hope to answer the questions that have been asked in many letters.

The Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe is one of the five Tribes under the Shawnee Agency. We have an enrollment of approximately eleven thousand people, living in the fifty states and several foreign countries. The business of the Tribe is carried on by a Business Committee composed of five individuals elected by the Council. A Chairman, whose duties are general supervision of the affairs of the Council and Business Committee. A Vice-Chairman who in the absence of the Chairman shall perform his duties. Secretary - Treasurer keeps a record of all Tribal meetings, maintains the Tribal Roll, answers general correspondence, keeps a record of all Tribal money and disbursements. And two councilmen. The committee holds four quarterly meetings a year, as set out in the Constitution and Special meetings as necessary to take care of the Tribal business.

There is a Regular Council Meeting held on the last Saturday afternoon of June each year. The Council Meeting this year will be held on June 30th at Shawnee, Oklahoma. The Tribal Attorney will be present to give a report on the Tribal Claims. We would very much like to see a large attendance for the Council Meeting.

As a part of the Tribal Management program we will also be making up ID cards to be issued to any Tribal Member requesting that we mail them one. We would like at this time to request Tribal people keep their mailing address up-to-date. If you did not receive a copy of this newsletter then you know that we do not have your correct mailing address. We do correct mailing addresses when we receive a request from the individual to do so but because of the large number of requests it is impossible for us to acknowledge each one. There will be another newsletter later on. If your mailing address is not correct please mail one in. Our address is:

CITIZEN BAND OF POTAWATOMI INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
ROUTE 5, BOX 180 D
SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA 74801

HOUSING The Absentee Shawnee Indian Housing serves the area of the old Potawatomi, Absentee Shawnee and Kickapoo Reservations as set out by the Shawnee Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Housing requirement is based on the yearly income of the family residing in the house and the number of dependants in the family. This varies with the housing offices located in the different areas, so an individual should check with the housing office nearest to him for his eligibility. A Tribal member does not necessarily go through his individual Tribe's Housing Office, but through the Housing Office located in the area he wishes to be served in. At the present, funds for this program are frozen but there is hope that these funds will again be available after the 1st of July.

HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - HIP - A program to improve existing homes. There is an income limitation but no blood quantum requirement. You must be on an Indian Roll. Application can be accepted but the program is filled up till after July 1st.

SHAWNEE SERVICE UNIT or INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE located in Shawnee, Oklahoma includes eight counties. The Shawnee Service Unit provides health care principally to the seven Tribes in this area. The Iowas, Sac and Fox, Cree, Seminoles, Potawatomes, Kickapoos and Absentee Shawnee. The general medical clinic is open 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. From noon to 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday and Thursday. The evening clinics are primarily for those who cannot come during the day. Dental clinic is held on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and Tuesday from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.. Outpatient clinics are also held at Wewoka and Wetumka. Eligibility for services is for any individual who is an enrolled member of an Indian Tribe or a dependant of an enrolled tribal member. It is recommended that individuals use the facilities nearest to them. The Shawnee Indian Public Health Service has an Advisory Board that makes the guide lines for the operation of the clinic. The Advisory Board is composed of one representative from each Tribe, they hold meetings once a month. The Indian Public Health has a social service worker, a psychiatrist who is available every other Wednesday. Depending on funds available they also hold an eye clinic. They have a Public Health Nurse, three doctors, a registered nurse and two nurses, laboratory technician and a pharmacist. The Clinic has a Weight Watchers Control class which has about 50 members at the present. It is open to all Indian people living in the Shawnee jurisdiction who would like to lose some weight. The night class meets every Tuesday night from 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., the day class meets on Monday morning at 10:00 A.M. till 11:00 A.M..

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES PROGRAM - better known as CHR - has been in effect since March 1969 and their job consists of any and all health related programs. They are a liason between the Indian people and the community. On an emergency basis, or where there is no transportation at all, they do supply transportation to the hospital and clinic. The Citizen Potawatomi Tribe has three CHRs.

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH - Project 121 - To be eligible you must be an enrolled member of a Tribe. Application is made to the Tribal Chairman, who turns the application to the 121 Project Officer who in turn will make a survey. If the applicant is accepted; the project starts five feet out side of the house and lays the laterals, installs a septic tank, digs a well, installs a pump on the well and installs a storage tank. The OEH will also test the water of an existing well.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION - You Will Get Out of Vocational Training Just What You Put Into It! Eligibility - An individual must be a member of a recognized Band or Tribe and 1/4 degree or more of Indian blood, at least 18 years of age and not more than 35 years of age and live in the jurisdiction of the Shawnee B.I.A.. If you do not live within the jurisdiction of the Shawnee Agency inquiry may be made at the Agency Employment Assistance for the nearest Vocational Training Office. In some cases they can make an exception to the 1/4 degree requirement. The activity includes vocational counseling and guidance, institutional training in recognized vocations and trades, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training for periods not to exceed twenty-four months. The main goals of Adult Vocational Training are Employment and Self-Improvement.

SOCIAL SERVICES - Their basic responsibility is to help Indian people to cope realistically with the problems which confront them. Social Service provides assistance and counseling to eligible Indians, provided such Indians are not eligible to receive State or County Welfare assistance and provided the client - head of a family unit or unattached adult is 1/4 degree Indian. They also assist with boarding school applications. Jerry Bridges of the Social Services department is helping to coordinate an Indian Arts and Crafts Fair to be held on March 30, 31 and April 1, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, in the Municipal Auditorium at Shawnee, Oklahoma. Arts and Crafts made by the individual Indian will be on display and he will sell his own work. There will be a pow-wow in the same location. Well known people will be the head dancers and head singers. Lee Moutah will be the MC for the affair.

MEETINGS - Mr. Leroy Neddeau, Community Development Specialist will be holding meetings within the Shawnee area to discuss these new Tribal programs. It is to the benefit of all Tribal members to attend these meetings. The time and place of these meetings will be published in local newspapers.